

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HELD ON 18th SEPTEMBER 2018 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Michéal Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment
Brendan McFadden - S.E.E. Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Fergus Towey - SEE, NRDO
Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate
Collette Beattie - Assistant Planner
David Friel - Coastal Officer
Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community Development
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O. Motor Tax/Corporate

GMD 66/18

BEREAVEMENT

A minutes silence was observed by the Committee in memory of the late Dom Bonner, father of Cllr. Bonner.

GMD 67/18

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MD HELD ON 12TH JULY 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the minutes of the meeting of the Glenties Municipal District Committee held on the 12th July 2018 were confirmed.

GMD 68/18

REPORT FROM WORKSHOP

The Committee noted the reports from the workshops held on;

(i) 12th July,

(a) Community Involvement Schemes 2019

(b) Local Improvement Scheme 2018

(c) Local Area Plans

(ii) 2nd August,

(a) Funding calls under the National Development Plan (2018-2027)

GMD 69/18

BUDGET WORKSHOP

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher the Committee agreed to schedule a budget workshop on the 4th of October 2018 at 10:00 am in the Dungloe PSC.

GMD 70/18

BUDGET MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher the Committee agreed to schedule a budget meeting on the 25th of October at 10:00 am in the Dungloe PSC.

GMD 71/18

HOUSING AND CORPORATE

71.1

Grants

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of:

(i) Housing Aid for Older People

(ii) Housing Adaptation

(iii) Mobility Aids grants

The Housing Manager updated Members on recent grant approvals.

71.2 Casual Vacancies

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously in relation to the status of casual vacancies as at the 10th of September 2018.

The Housing Manager informed members that of the 21 vacancies,;

- (i) 4 are ready to offer
- (ii) Work in progress is ongoing at 9 properties &
- (iii) 8 vacancies are out to tender.

71.3 Acquisitions

Members noted the progress report in respect of 4 no. acquisitions and the Housing Manager advised the Committee that 2 properties are out to tender and that works are nearing completion in respect of 2 properties due for allocation next week.

In response to Cllr. Ó Domhnaills assertion that acquisitions are reducing the availability of rented property in the private sector, the Housing Manager informed Members that the Council have specific agreed criteria with estate agents regarding suitable property, to minimise effect on the market.

The Housing Manager updated the Committee regarding ongoing efforts by the Housing Engineer to acquire additional properties for specific needs not available in scheme housing.

71.4 Údaras Properties

The Housing Manager updated members on recent progress in relation to negotiations between the Council and Údaras to acquire additional properties in Fintown and Gweedore for social housing.

Cllr. Gallagher & Cllr. Slowey highlighted the necessity to proactively increase the availability of Social Housing in rural areas to sustain and preserve schools, the Irish language and local communities.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that the Department of Housing have established set criteria

that have to be complied with, prior to the development of scheme housing in any location.

71.5 **CAS Project**

The Housing Manager updated the Committee in relation to group scheme proposals at Meenmore, Dungloe. Members were informed that stage 3 approval enabled commencement of the tendering process and that Rhattigan Consultants are currently validating submitted tenders.

71.6 **Respond - Approved Housing Body**

The Housing Manager advised the Committee that costings have been received in relation to the design layout in respect of additional units at Fairhill Lodge, Dungloe. Cllr. Gallagher expressed frustration that the ground floor of this facility has remained unoccupied and requested the Council to ensure that value for money efficiencies are achieved in relation to any proposed expenditure.

71.7 **Clúid -Approved Housing Body**

Members welcomed the update presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the costs of €208,000 for redesigned layout in respect of 5 no. 1 bed and 6 no. 2 bed units at Cois Locha, Dungloe.

71.8 **Section 183 - Folio Number DL20934F**

The committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting in relation to the proposed disposal of lands located in the town land of Straboy, Glenties to Brid Herron.

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee recommended disposal of this land in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 - 2010 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

71.9 Housing Construction

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed frustration at the inability of the Council to expedite the provision of social housing in areas with a high demand, notwithstanding its unique position as the Planning and Roads authority with privileged access to water & sewage authorities.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the superior ability of private developers to fast track housing developments and requested the Council to develop a credible model for the expeditious provision of social housing.

Cllr. Bonner requested an update from Housing Construction on progress with Turnkey schemes.

71.10 Maintenance

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding the adequacy of the Housing Maintenance budget, the Housing Manager informed Members that repairs are categorised into Emergency, Urgent & Routine requirements and that the latter category would be impacted if budgets were exceeded. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Housing Manager to identify any resource deficiencies in advance of budget meetings, to enable the Committee to make appropriate representations in this regard.

71.11 Ministerial Correspondence

The Committee discussed the correspondence received from Ministers Michael Creed TD, and Minister Ring and the absence of a reply from Minister McHugh in respect of submissions made by the Glenties MD in relation to requests for meetings in relation to development of Offshore Islands and establishment of an Emergency Task Force.

Cllr. Gallagher stated that the absence of a meaningful response from the 3 Ministerial Offices is a reflection of their attitude to the constituents of the Glenties MD and local democracy.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh asked the Council to revert to the Ministers to request an adequate response to the Committees valid concerns regarding deficiencies in resources in West Donegal.

GMD 72/18

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

72.1

Pride of Place 2018

The Community Development Manager discussed the report circulated with the agenda and informed the Committee that the winners of this year's competition will be announced in Cork City Hall on 17th November 2018.

72.2

Age Friendly County

Members welcomed the report circulated previously and presented by the Community Development Manager in relation to the success and ongoing activity of the Intergenerational Choir.

72.3

Social Inclusion Week 2018

The Community Development Manager informed Members that this year's Social Inclusion Week will be launched on Tuesday 2nd October at 3:30 pm in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

72.4

Donegal Tourism

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community Development Manager detailing the various marketing activities to promote Donegal as a tourist destination. Cllr. Gallagher requested a meeting of MD Councillors and the recently appointed Gaeltacht Tourism Officer

Cllr. Bonner informed the Committee of the tourism infrastructure available at Fanad Lighthouse and requested the Council to liaise with the Commissioner of Irish Lights to similarly upgrade and develop Arranmore Lighthouse.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that a delegation from the MD meet with the Maghery Community Centre committee to progress the development of Crohy Head and the sea stack area as a flagship tourism project.

72.5

ASCENT Project

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community Development Manager in relation to;

- (i) Progress to date
- (ii) Completion of Visitor Monitoring Surveys and
- (iii) The preparation of terms of reference for Upland Path Design, Repair and Restoration Works.

Cllr. Slowey commended Rosita Mahony for her role in both the Ascent project and the preservation of Errigal for future generations.

72.6

Greenways

The Committee requested an update on the status of this project particularly in relation to employment of a support worker and the funding requirements to progress this transformative project.

72.7

'Mary from Dungloe' Festival

Cllr. Gallagher requested an update on her recommendation at the July meeting that the Council liaise with the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and Fáilte Ireland to seek classification of this festival as a National Event.

72.8

Youth Council

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill commended the activities undertaken and the quality of work carried out by the Youth Council.

GMD 73/18

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

73.1

Follow-up Issues - July MD Meeting

The Committee welcomed circulation of the report prior to the meeting.

73.2

Waste Management Plan

The Committee noted the Waste Reception Plan 2018 - 2021 circulated with the agenda.

Members were advised that SI 117/2003 European Communities (Port Reception Facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues) Regulations 2003 require the Local Harbour Authority to prepare a waste reception plan in accordance with schedule 2 of said regulations. The Roads Manager requested that any queries regarding this plan be submitted to the Marine Engineer.

73.3

Roadworks Programme 2018

The Committee welcomed the progress reports circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager.

In response to queries from Cllr. Bonner and Cllr. Gallagher regarding outstanding works near Glenties Comprehensive School and at the Quay Road, Dungloe, the Roads Manager advised that negotiations with Irish Water are nearing completion.

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the poor quality standard of restoration works carried out by Irish Water and requested the Council to consider legal proceedings to resolve this ongoing issue.

Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Bonner requested the Roads Service to line roads;

- (i) from Dungloe to Letterkenny, particularly in Doochary village and
- (ii) Leffin Road outside Dungloe

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh highlighted the necessity to repair the crash barrier at the picnic area near An Chúirt Hotel and also repairs to the road to Magheraroarty Pier.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the completion of snagging on Main Street, Dunfanaghy and a resolution to flooding issues in proximity to Moores garage.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the Dawros Road, the Roads Manager advised that this scheme will be incorporated into the new 3 year work programme.

73.4

Public Lighting

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to replace substandard lighting at Meenacuing and to repair the light pole at the entrance to Dunfanaghy Golf Club.

Cllr. Gallagher informed the Committee that lights have not worked in the Dungloe car park for in excess of 6 months and requested that this deficiency be urgently addressed.

The Roads Manager undertook to obtain a costing for the provision of public lighting in Leitir village.

Cllr. Slowey requested that the missing light on Glenties main street be repaired/replaced.

73.5

Pavement Asset Repair & Renewal 2018

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by Fergus Towey SEE, in relation to completion of 3.9 km of schemes on the N56 at Crolla, Gortnamucklagh and Creeslough.

Cllr. Slowey commended the appointment of a contractor to commence onsite on the 1st of October on the N56

Ardara Pavement strengthening and Associated Minor Work Contract.

The NRDO SEE updated the Committee on the status of schemes at detailed site investigation and preliminary design stage on the N56 at Dungloe, Stragar, Keeldrum/Fanaboy and Creeslough.

Cllr. Gallagher requested that the NRDO SEE revert to Garrett Doherty SEE in respect of his negative response to a proposal for the addition of a short link of footpath adjacent to the Dungloe football field to the Pavement Contract. Cllr. Gallagher requested that the entrance to Supervalu back to the football field be included in the Dungloe Pavement Contract. Cllr. Gallagher also requested a pavement scheme from Crolly to Loughanure.

73.6

Major and Minor Road Projects

The NRDO SEE, updated the Committee on the status of the following schemes

- (i) N56 Boyoughter to Kilkenny
- (ii) N56 Kilkenny to Letterilly
- (iii) N56 Letterilly to Glenties (Kilraine) and N56 Dungloe to Cloughbolie
- (iv) N56 Dungloe to Glenties - land acquisition

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the Committee recommended that the Green Area in Leitir village be selected as a location for the proposed Art Project.

73.7

Donegal Ten-T Priority Route Improvement Scheme

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the NRDO SEE who undertook to request the Consultants to make a presentation to Members at a future MD meeting.

73.8

Road Safety

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the necessity for a footpath from Dunfanaghy Village towards Portnablagh. Cllr. Gallagher informed the Roads Service of ongoing concerns in respect of road safety at the turn off to Cois Locha Housing Scheme and at the 2 bends on the Gweedore Road, Dungloe entering the town.

73.9

National Road Bridge Management

The Committee noted the report from Roger Ryan SEE, circulated at the meeting in respect of projects at;

- (i) Glenties Bridge
- (ii) Mullanieron Bridge
- (iii) Hydro Race Bridge
- (iv) Corcreggan Retaining Wall

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill informed Members of major traffic disruption experienced during Bridge works throughout the County, and expressed frustration at the Health and Safety and traffic management performance of the contractor involved in said works.

The NRDO SEE advised the Committee that public tendering protocols have to be adhered to in appointment of contractors.

GMD 74/18

PLANNING

74.1

Development Applications

The Committee discussed the statistical report circulated previously and presented by the Planning Officer.

Cllr. Bonner requested the Planning Officer to liaise with her colleagues to obtain responses to 2 no. queries that he has submitted.

74.2

Enforcement

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Officer.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to issue correspondence to the Ministers for Local Government & The Gaeltacht/Islands to facilitate the regularisation of unauthorised structures on Gola Island similar to the applications for retention that are available to applicants on the mainland.

74.3

Clinics

The Committee discussed the scheduling of planning clinic on the 3rd October, 7th November and 5th December in the Dungloe PSC.

The Committee criticised the presented schedule and stated that clinics were to be available every fortnight. Members stated that they are unwilling to accept a reduction in local planning services.

74.4

Community Playgrounds

Cllr. Gallagher expressed concern at the exorbitant costs borne by community groups in their attempts to obtain planning for local playgrounds. Cllr. Gallagher stated that playground development should be the responsibility of local authorities and that additional funding is imperative for adequate resourcing of the Planning Service.

74.5

Record of Protected Structures

The Committee discussed the report on proposed additions to the Record of Protected Structures circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Officer.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Glenties Municipal District Committee resolved in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to add the following 3 structures to the Council's Record of Protected Structures:

1. St. Marys Church, Derrybeg
2. Termon House, Maghery
3. Farm House, Kiltoorish, Glenteis

GMD 75/18

ENVIRONMENT

75.1

Gum Litter

The Committee welcomed the report from the Waste Awareness Officer circulated with the agenda regarding the Gum Litter taskforce's gum litter education campaign.

75.2

Donegal Mattress Amnesty

Members welcomed the report from the Waste Awareness officer in relation to the provision of funding from the Department of Communities, Climate Action and The Environment, to run mattress amnesties in 2018. The Committee were informed that a free mattress recycling day is being held in the Dungloe Recycling Centre on Saturday 22nd September.

75.3

Recycling

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the;

- (i) Recycling Ambassador Programme
- (ii) Recycling Bring Banks

Members welcomed proposals to deliver new glass and can banks to Lettermacaward and Fintown.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh the Coastal Officer advised that he will relay concerns to Eadaoin Healy regarding the necessity to upgrade recycling facilities in the Derrybeg area and to secure a suitable site.

75.4

Litter Statistics

Members noted the statistics circulated with the agenda in relation to;

- (i) waste tonnage collected and
- (ii) litter fines issued during the period from 1/1/18 to 31/7/18
- (iii) enforcement actions and complaints

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to investigate illegal waste disposal at Balliness Pier particularly at weekends.

75.5

Coastal Management

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding;

- (i) The Clean Coasts 'Big Beach Clean' which took place in Donegal on the weekend of the 15th, 16th & 17th September.
- (ii) Bathing Season and Beach Lifeguard statistics
- (iii) Bathing Water Quality
- (iv) Coastal Erosion

75.6

Public Conveniences

The Committee discussed the report presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the status of

- (i) The Dungloe Public Convenience
- (ii) Proposals for Inishbofin Island

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, the Coastal Officer advised that the Dungloe Public Convenience will be completed by the year end.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to upgrade the front of the public convenience at Market Square, Dunfanaghy.

75.7

Signage

Cllr. Gallagher requested the initiation of a pilot project to designate an area and facility to display promotional signage to reduce the prevalence of multiple signs in various locations throughout towns and villages.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill informed the Committee that a pilot project in this regard is underway in Falcarragh as part of the village renewal scheme supervised by Jamie Gallagher, Roads Engineer.

75.8

Invasive Species

Cllr. Gallagher recommended a follow up campaign to totally eradicate the presence of invasive species in the Dungloe area.

75.9

Environment SPC

Cllr. Gallagher commended the initiatives undertaken by the SPC in response to issues raised by Members.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE
MEETING.**